

# Analytics

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- **UNEXPECTED BEGINNING OF THE ELECTION GAME**

(first under neo-monarchy conditions)

According to the official information, Azerbaijan has been consequently carrying out democratic reforms from the first days of gaining independence. In fact, the newly history of the country is the fight of two tendencies - the will of the ruling party to perpetuate the corrupted authoritarian system of power in the form of neo-monarchy tradition and the will of the opposition part of society to obtain democratization by means of the change of the regime during fair elections. The ruling elite still is trying to keep monopoly control (within the frameworks of the practice of falsification) over the election process and the will of pro-democratic part of society remains unsolved illusion: The country did not manage to hold at least once fair elections in the country... Meanwhile, on the eve of every election campaign the slogans on necessity of providing of fair elections becomes more actual: all (the ruling elite, opposition, electorate and the West) admit importance of this factor, but as a result the election process is falsified in favor of the ruling elite, and the will of democracy remains as illusion.

Today Azerbaijan again is approaching next political experiment - checking of possibility of conduction in our country really fair elections. And constant falsification of all election games attach especial actuality and intrigue ("sport stir") to the expectation of fair fight during the next election campaign. And it is natural that now, despite the practice of falsification over the past years, they again speak about the possibility of conduction of parliamentary elections in conformity with all norms of democracy.

This time, Rhino Harnish is very active, he has given start to the beginning of the election game. Such beginning can be explained by the realities after the elections in 2003. It must be noted that all previous election processes began a year before and by April-May they became "too hot". By April of this year there was stagnation situation. Such state is a result of post-election accumulation of a number of negative tendencies of the election game (October 2003) which ended with falsification of the results in favor of neo-monarchy with further strengthening of "preventive measures" for strengthening of her positions. "Wise monarch" (the Ambassador of Germany Kraus Grevlich) and "progressive" (the Ambassador of USA Rhino Harnish) came to power what brought the following innovations:

- moratorium on political manifestations has been lasting for a year and a half,
- new limitations have been introduced for the freedom of speech (selling of newspapers),
- the facts of violence over journalist have become more dangerous,
- corruption and criminality in the power structures is growing,
- democratic and market reforms worsen social- economic situation of population and so on.

The noted innovations (tendencies) testify the intention of the power and of the new "progressive" president to keep the situation under stable (stagnation) state not providing initiating of democratic changes and conduction of fair elections. Such power was not going to unblock the necessary attributes of democratic elections (activity of electorate, start of manifestation forms of fight, expansion of the freedom of speech and so on).

It is not surprising that "unblocking" of post-election situation was initiated by the Ambassador of America Rhino Harnish: he said that the power structures of Azerbaijan (counting of "progressiveness" of our president) must create all necessary conditions for conduction of fair elections. Immediately after that he had a number of confidential talks in the regions of the country with the heads of the leading opposition parties (Musavat, PPFA and Democratic party). In fact, Harnish "has brought to motion" the stagnation situation. It is not coincidence that unexpected step of the Ambassador was followed by "unexpected"

response on the part of "progressive" president: they have started propagandist campaign against the American ambassador unforeseen before according to the canons of the soviet tradition of public defamation of his "unworthy" actions. As a result, the U.S. Ambassador calling all (the power, opposition and society) to democracy has turned into the "enemy of the Azeri statehood" (just like the opposition parties before). One motivation is clearly seen in this campaign - reactionary attitude of neo-monarchy to democracy and the fear of possibility of "orange revolution" in our country. It is noteworthy that this anti-democratic regime is loosing the sense of self-control and start open attack against the U.S. Ambassador.... Or, may be this time such farce of neo-monarchy is providing such course of game into pseudo-democracy?...

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